

# LEO A. HOFFMANN CENTER

## "JOURNEY TO NEW BEGINNINGS" NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2017



### From the Desk of Gene Taylor, M.S., LPCC, Executive Director

We are proud to announce that the Leo A. Hoffmann Center has achieved accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA). COA is an independent, nonprofit organization that partners with human service delivery outcome by developing, applying, and promoting appropriate best practice standards. Achieving accreditation was not easy; it took over a year of hard work and dedication to achieve our goal. During that time, COA reviewed all aspects of our organization's programs and services. COA accreditation has improved the way we deliver services to you and the community, and has established strategies of continual improvement in the years to come.

While COA has been a big focus, administratively all staff have been diligently involved in making policy and procedural changes on campus, increasing service and delivery processes. Concurrently, Hoffmann Center is in the final stages of implementing "Procentive" Electronic Medical Record software (EMR). This software not only provides a more structured documentation process but is a time saver and provides easier access versus paper documentation. We are in also in the early stages to providing a portal for stakeholders, guardians and parents to be able to access their sons/clients information through Procentive's website.

Hoffmann Center continues to work on accomplishing our strategic goals to expand and grow our current outpatient program through focusing on other clinical services. Our focus will be to maintain services for our current population on the St. Peter campus and look at working with children/adolescents with mental health issues. We will be soliciting information from southern county stakeholders to get their opinions on gaps of needed treatment services in their counties for both girls and boys. Hoffmann Center continues searching for possible local and other possible sites for program development.

The MN Department of Human Services additional licensing rules have compelled us to rethink our staff training protocols and we have added additional computer based training for all staff. This provides the convenience of staff being able to stay at home and do their training. Alison Nelson from Owakih, Inc. provided Hoffmann Center staff with a two-day Person-Centered training.

This past year has been busy but productive year. We look forward to diversifying our treatment programs; both outpatient services and residential services for both male/female populations. Our vision is to provide a continuum of care that

supports quality individualized services in a safe structured environment.

We are moving in the right direction with the potential to see growth later this year! Thanks to all families, stakeholders, board members, and all staff who have been supportive of Hoffmann Center services in the last year.

### *Family Therapy Services*

Families are offered two family therapy sessions on a monthly basis; additional sessions are offered as needed or requested



by the family unit. Accommodations are made to make these sessions available on campus or via telephone and/or Skype to meet the family's needs. There are also gas cards available for families whom may otherwise have a financial barrier to assist in attending family therapy and/or visitor time and/or

progress reviews. Visiting time is from 1-3pm on Sundays on campus; however, special accommodations can be made through the Unit Coordinator to schedule a different day, time or to utilize Skype. These modifications have given several families the opportunity to have more time to interact with one another. Families whom have completed their first draft safety plans begin the process of off grounds visits which increase in duration and lead to overnight stays away from the campus. During the past year, several LAHC clients and their families were able to successfully and attend such events as: MN State Fair, local fairs, Renaissance, Mall of America, local art festivals including performances, local and professional sporting events, etc. Reunification services are provided when all parties are emotionally and behaviorally ready. This process includes a gradual introduction of our client, beginning with a written letter and progressing through a phone call, in person session (off site), family therapy on campus and progressing to off grounds and home visits. Throughout this process, focus is placed on safety plans, boundaries, assertive communication, self-advocacy, coping skills, and emotion identification. During the past year the Family Therapist and Unit Therapist have traveled between 30 minutes and over 2 hours to engage in the in-person session. These sessions have included a structured portion as well as an opportunity for families to engage in an agreed upon activity (Uno, dancing, board games, etc.) and take photos of their united family.

Families are invited and encouraged to attend the Parent Education and Support (PEAS) group offered the third Sunday of the month. Should extenuating circumstances cause a parent(s) to not attend a PEAS group, families may request the handout from the session. Topics in the past several

months have included: reunification, empathy, play therapy, stress reduction, technology and pornography, adolescents and the legal system, safety and supervision, sexuality, sex offender sigma and family systems. In June 2016, LAHC provided an opportunity for families to gather on campus and engage in arts and crafts activities (Family Tree), outdoor activities, indoor activities, healthy food booth, and family meal. The next Family Day is tentatively scheduled in September 2017 to better accommodate several families availability as well as being mindful of weather conditions.

### *Therapeutic Activities at Hoffmann Center*



We had a fun-filled winter with limited snow! The clients did have a few opportunities to enjoy outdoor winter fun with cross-country skiing. They learned specific skills of waxing skis to help them propel themselves across snow covered terrain. The clients had opportunities for nature walks, snow shoeing and see the waterfalls at Minneopa State Park. The boys participate in circuit training several times a week to develop basic muscle groups and teach some basic cardiovascular conditioning. Brad Walsh, Recreation Coordinator continues to provide events and activities to help the boys develop basic skill sets for team sports and leisure activities.

#### \*\*\*\*\*MEET OUR NEW STAFF\*\*\*\*\*



*Jennifer Hooyman, MSW, LGSW  
Therapist, Evergreen Cottage*

Jennifer received her Bachelor of Arts from the University Of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana in 2003. In 2007, she completed her Masters of Social Work from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Jennifer has spent the last decade living in Brooklyn, New York working for Good Shepherd Services as a Social Worker and then Program Director at alternative high school settings for adolescents and young adults.

Jennifer is new to Minnesota and began working as a Unit Therapist on the Falcons Unit in January 2017. She has 9,990 lakes left on her Minnesota checklist!



*Felicia Kellen, MA  
Therapist, North Cottage*

Felicia graduated in 2011 from Minnesota State University–Mankato with a double major in psychology and law enforcement. In 2016, she graduated from Capella University with a master's degree in psychology, specializing in child and adolescent development. Felicia has previously worked with children, adults and families with diagnosed mental illness doing in-home and community skills training. She has also worked at Committee Against Domestic Abuse as an advocate assisting

women and their children in shelter. Felicia is currently attending Argosy University to obtain her doctorate in marriage and family therapy.



*Ricky Drenckhahn  
Primary Counselor-North Cottage*

Ricky attended Minnesota State University – Mankato. In 2013, he graduated with a double major in Psychology and Cognitive Science. Ricky has worked at Hoffmann Center since 2013. He started his employment here as a Youth Counselor, and later took the position of Primary Counselor.

Regarding his employment at Hoffmann Center, Ricky replied, *"I enjoy having the opportunity to get to know each of our unique clients, and watching them mature and grow into respectful young men."*



*If you have questions, would like additional program information, or are interested in a tour of our campus, please give us a call at (507) 934-6122.*

**Hoffmann Center** is licensed by the Department of Human Services as a Rule 2960 facility. **Counties who place boys with us are able to seek federal funds through Medical Assistance and Title IV-E.** This allows counties to be reimbursed for **over 56%** of the per diem costs! Hoffmann Center does not bill for clients who are on straight medical assistance (county's bill) but our programs are MA reimbursable! Hoffmann Center **DOES** bill the treatment portion to insurance companies for clients who are on Prepaid Medical Assistance (PMAP). This means that counties are only responsible for the Room & Board portion!

**Hoffmann Center, as a Rule 2960 licensed facility, is frequently eligible for private insurance coverage.** We are very willing to work with counties and parents to check for eligibility of coverage prior to placement. In some cases, **Hoffmann Center has reimbursed the referring county 100% of the total per diem they paid!** If you have questions about this or would like additional information, please contact our office at (507) 934-6122. We are very happy to work with counties in helping to keep placement costs down!